

Time commenced – 6.00pm
Finished – 7.04pm

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
18 July 2017

Present: Councillors Shanker (Chair), Froggatt, Graves, A Holmes, Jackson, Poulter and Stuart Green, Peter Purnell and Philip Sunderland

In Attendance: Janie Berry – Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer
Steven Mason – Democratic Services Officer

07/17 Apologies

Apologies were received from Alan Cameron.

08/17 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

In accordance with Section 100(B)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair agreed to admit the following item on the grounds that it needed to be considered before the next meeting:

Committee on Standards in Public Life 'Setting the Standard'

09/17 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

10/17 Minutes of the meetings held on 30 May 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 May 2017 were agreed.

**11/17 Draft Annual Report of the Standards Committee
2016/17**

The Committee received a report of the Chief Executive on Draft Annual Report of the Standards Committee – 2016/17.

The Chair of the Standards Committee for the municipal year 2016/17, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, resolved to produce an annual report detailing the work of the Standards Committee during the municipal year.

Members were provided with an opportunity to have an input into the content of the annual report.

It was agreed that in relation to the pending review of Derby City Council's standards regime, the following should be considered:

- In the spirit of transparency, Councillors should be named rather than remaining anonymous in the reporting of complaints.
- The link from the Council's website to complaints about Councillors on CMIS should be improved.
- Complaint summaries, as contained in such documents as progress reports and the Annual Report of the Standards Committee, should contain more specific details about each complaint.
- What items should and should not be considered when the press and public had been excluded?

Members agreed that page 29 of the report, Report in the Public Interest Related Complaints, should be expanded to include an explanation for the subsequent suspension of the review of Derby City Council's standards regime.

Resolved to agree that the Annual Report of the Standards Committee – 2016/17, along with agreed amendments, go forward to the 14 September 2017 meeting of Council.

12/17 Referral to the Monitoring Officer Relating to Taxi Licensing Issues

The Committee received a report of the Monitoring Officer on Referral to the Monitoring Officer Relating to Taxi Licensing Issues

It was reported that on 25 November 2015 Council approved an amendment to the Code of Conduct for Councillors in that any instance of Member interference with Taxi Licensing would be recorded and reported to the Monitoring Officer. It was also reported that the Monitoring Officer reviews the records on a quarterly basis or sooner if the circumstances as they present require earlier intervention.

It was noted that in order to provide additional oversight, the Monitoring Officer would report the instances which had required her intervention to the Standards Committee for awareness raising and consideration and comment as necessary.

It was reported that on 21 June 2017, the Monitoring Officer was advised that Councillor Nawaz had submitted a reference to a Derby City Council Taxi licensing Sub-Committee held on 21 June 2017, in support of a taxi driver who was brought before the Sub-Committee to consider Change of Circumstances – Private Hire Drivers Licence.

It was noted that the Monitoring Officer discussed this matter with Councillor Nawaz on 4 July 2017 and he gave background as to the reasons why he provided the reference.

Members were extremely concerned by Councillor Nawaz's actions in providing a reference, particularly as a number of safeguarding concerns had been formally raised by the Council in respect of this taxi driver.

After lengthy consideration of the matter, the Members of the Standards Committee believed that, in this instance, a sanction for Councillor Nawaz's conduct was appropriate and made the following recommendation:

1. to agree that the following sanctions be imposed, as per paragraph 12 of the procedure for considering complaints:
 - recommend to Councillor Nawaz's Group Leader that he be removed from any or all Committees or Sub-Committees of the Council
 - recommend the Monitoring Officer to arrange Code of Conduct training for Councillor Nawaz; and
2. to agree that the Chair of the Standards Committee and/or Monitoring Officer write a letter to Councillor Nawaz's Group Leader outlining the seriousness of this interference with taxi licensing.

The Independent Person and the two Co-opted Members in attendance wished it to be noted that they supported the recommendation.

Members wished it to be formally noted that the Monitoring Officer had been asked by the Committee to remind Councillor Nawaz that Code of Conduct training was due to take place on 19 July 2017 at 5.30pm, prior to the meeting of Council.

Resolved

1. **to agree that the following sanctions be imposed, as per paragraph 12 of the procedure for considering complaints:**
 - **recommend to Councillor Nawaz's Group Leader that he be removed from any or all Committees or Sub-Committees of the Council**
 - **recommend the Monitoring Officer to arrange Code of Conduct training for Councillor Nawaz; and**
2. **to agree that the Chair of the Standards Committee and/or Monitoring Officer write a letter to Councillor Nawaz's Group Leader outlining the seriousness of this interference with taxi licensing.**

13/17 Committee on Standards in Public Life 'Setting the Standard'

The Committee received a report of the Monitoring Officer on Committee on Standards in Public Life 'Setting the Standard'.

Members considered the Committee on Standards in Public Life's (CSPL) 'Setting the Standard' report that included the Committee's strategic plan, annual report for 2016-17 forward plan for 2017-18.

It was noted that the CSPL had confirmed its intention to undertake a review of local government standards as part of its 2017/18 work programme and that this would be based around a consultation that would be launched in early 2018.

Members considered the report with reference to the pending review of Derby City Council's standards regime.

It was noted that the Rt Hon Dame Margaret Beckett DBE MP was a member of the CSPL and agreed that a conversation should be had with her as part of Derby's review.

Members agreed that the CSPL review should not further delay Derby's review and that timescales should be set.

Resolved to agree that timescales be set for a review of Derby City Council's standards regime.

MINUTES END